Governments including the experts, have been ascertained; and

(c) the main projects on which emphasis has been laid down in the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The exercise for the preparation of the Ninth Plan is presently underway in Planning Commission. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan approved by the National Development Council in its meeting held on 16.01.1997, prepared after extensive consultations with experts, Parliamentarians, State Governments and Voluntary Organisations etc, indicated the objectives and main thrusts on which emphasis is to be laid down in the Ninth Plan.

P.M.'e Action Plan on Child Labour

68. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards elimination of child labour engaged in hazardous jobs, industry and mines under the Action Plan announced by the then Prime Minister on August 15, 1995, so far, yearwise, indicating also the achievement made for education, training and rehabilitation of the child labour, emancipated under the Plan, and

(b) the effective steps being taken to achieve the objectives of total ban of child labour from such hazardous employment as contemplated under Article 24, of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) A major programme was announced by Government on 15th August, 1994 to rehabilitate child labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the project, an estimated 2 million children working in hazardous occupations were proposed to be withdrawn from work and rehabilitated by putting them in schools with provisions for non-formal education, vocational training supplementary nutrition, etc. So far 76 Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools set up under the projects.

While the Government was still considering extension of the programme to other districts, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement 10.12.96 issued several directions regarding the manner in which the children working in hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of children working in non hazardous occupations are to be improved and regulated. A number of steps have been taken for the implementation of the judgement of Supreme Court.

Climate Satellite

69. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation has submitted a proposal for launching climate satellite; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Government to save lives during natural calamities by advance prediction of cyclones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTLARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has constituted an Expert Group for defining a setellite for climate studies-CLIMATSAT Programme Definition Group—for working out the technical feasibility of designing and launching such a satellite. The Committee is presently working out the payload mix, orbit, satellite configuration, etc., for the proposed satellite in close collaboration with various Indian user Organisations such as, Indian Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and Indian Institute of Science.

(b) Presently, the analysis of sequential cloud cover images provided by the Indian geostationary INSAT satellites, has been facilitating advanced waring on the onset of cyclones. The Disaster Warning System using additionally the communication capability of INSAT has been used to take advanced actions in relation to evacuation of people from coastal regions.

Model Villages

70 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has prepared a special scheme for the development of model villages in the country.

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the scheme is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir. HUDCO has proposed to develop one or two model villages (Adarsh Gram) and model bastis (Adarsh Bastis) in all States/UTs in the country.

(b) The Model Village/Model Basti Project will have a convergence approach and integrated development with provision of good housing with appropriate sustainable technologies based on local resources, use of non-conventional and renewable sources of energy and creation of social infrastructure and community facilities. The Model